

## State Water Resources Control Board

Division of Drinking Water

November 16, 2017

System No.: 2000612

Mr. Darren Sylvia, Superintendent  
Chawanakee Unified School District  
North Fork Elementary School  
P.O. Box 400  
North Fork, CA 93643

Dear Mr. Sylvia,

### State Water Resources Control Board Notice Regarding Mandatory Consolidation

Effective June 24, 2015, Section 116680 through 116684 was added to the California Health & Safety Code, addressing consolidation of public water systems.

Records available at the State Water Resources Control Board – Division of Drinking Water (Division) indicate that the water delivered by North Fork Elementary School's (School) public water system contains arsenic at levels that exceed the maximum contaminant level established in state and federal regulations. Since approximately 2008, the School's water system has consistently failed to provide safe drinking water due to the high arsenic levels. It is the Division's understanding that the Madera County Maintenance District 8A –North Fork's (MD8A) service area is approximately 1.0 mile west of the School

The Division strongly encourages Chawanakee Unified School District and Madera County to work out a voluntary consolidation of their public water systems. If a voluntary consolidation is not timely achieved, the Division intends to take action pursuant to Health & Safety Code section 116682, subdivision (a) for consolidation of North Fork Elementary School's Water System into Madera County Maintenance District 8A – North Fork's water system. Please note that as used in the applicable statutory authority, the Madera County Maintenance District 8A – North Fork Water System is hereby identified as the potentially receiving water system and the North Fork Elementary School water system is identified as the potentially subsumed water system.

This letter serves as official notification that, pursuant to Health & Safety Code section 116682, subdivision (b)(7)(A), North Fork Elementary School, the potentially subsumed water system, is directed to negotiate consolidation with Madera County Maintenance District 8A – North Fork Water System, the potentially receiving water system. The School is further directed to complete such negotiations and report the outcome to the State Water Board Division of Drinking Water, Merced District Office, not later than six (6) months following the date of this letter.

The State Water Board acknowledges that consolidation is a complex process and stands ready to assist you so that safe, affordable and accessible drinking water is able to be provided to your students and faculty. Pursuant to Health & Safety Code Section 116682 subdivision (b)(7)(B), during the six month negotiation period, the State Water Board will provide technical assistance and work with Madera County Maintenance District 8A – North Fork and North Fork Elementary School to develop an appropriate financing package, if needed.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Kassy Chauhan, Merced District Engineer for the Division, at (559) 447-3316, or me at (559) 447-3132. For funding related questions, please contact the Division of Financial Assistance at (916) 341-5700.

Sincerely,



Carl L. Carlucci, P.E.  
Supervising Sanitary Engineer  
Central California Section  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA BRANCH  
DRINKING WATER FIELD OPERATIONS

cc: Madera County Environmental Health Department

Mr. Ahmad Alkayhat – Madera County Public Works Director

Mr. David Braun, LAFCO Executive Officer - Madera County Local Area Formation  
Commission

Ms. Thongdy Madsen, REHS – Madera County Environmental Health Department

Mr. Sylvia  
November 16, 2017  
Page 3

cc:

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Office of Sustainable Water Solutions  
SWRCB-Division of Financial Assistance  
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Sacramento, CA 95814

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SWRCB-Division of Drinking Water  
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Carpinteria, CA 93013

Kassy Chauhan, P.E., Merced District Engineer  
SWRCB-Division of Drinking Water  
265 West Bullard Ave, Suite 101  
Fresno, CA 93704

Caitlin Juarez, Southern California Consolidation Coordinator  
SWRCB-Division of Drinking Water  
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